

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 143435

73

ORIGIN USIA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 /016 R

66618

DRAFTED BY USIA/IAA:HGDWSON JR

APPROVED BY AF/EX:GKKRYZA

AF/S:RHAVERCAMP

----- 090390

P 182212Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL DURBAN PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 143435

EYES ONLY FOR HOLMES FROM DAWSON

E.O. 11652: NA

1. PLEASED THAT PREPARATIONS ARE MOVING SMOOTHLY ALTHOUGH ASSUME YOU NOW AWARE INCREASINGLY SENSITIVE SITUATION IN ZAIRE. WE WILL REQUEST READING WITHIN A DAY OR SO RE ADVISABILITY YOUR KEEPING KINSHASA ON SCHEDULE VIEW ANTI-U.S. PRESS STORIES WHICH EXCITING LOCAL TENSIONS. ALSO ACCRA HAS CROWDED PROGRAM AND BUILDING/MOVING DIFFICULTIES BUT HAVE ADVISED POST YOU NOT INTERESTED HAND-HOLDING EXERCISE.

2. PURPOSE THESE TRIPS NORMALLY TO MAKE EFFORT ASSESS PERSONNEL AND PROGRAM SITUATION AT POST, PAYING PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO EVIDENCE

OF A) ESPECIALLY GOOD PERFORMANCE OR REVERSE; B) CLIMATE IN WHICH OPERATION FUNCTIONS; C) PROBLEMS; D) PROSPECTS INCREASED EFFECTIVENESS OUR OPERATION. BRIEFINGS AND CONFERENCES WITH AMBASSADORS AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS EMBASSY IMPORTANT BACKGROUND AND SUPPLEMENT TO MORE EXTENSIVE CONTACTS WITH PAO AND STAFF.

3. FOLLOWING ARE ABBREVIATED VERSION TRIP NOTES:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 143435

KINSHASA: A. SUGGEST FULL EMBASSY BRIEFING POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND FINANCIAL SITUATION ZAIRE. SOME FEEL THAT LACK OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE WITH ATTENDANT PROBLEMS MAY BE BASIS CURRENT ANTI-US CHARGES, REPRESENTING GOZ EFFORT BLAME USG FOR ZAIRE'S

PLIGHT AND ALSO ATTEMPT DIVERT PUBLIC ATTENTION FROM THESE PROBLEMS.

B. U.S. PAVILION AT FIKIN FAIR REPRESENTS MAJOR EFFORT AGENCY, DEPARTMENT, AND COMMERCE. AGENCY "CENTERPIECE/ TITLED "BUILDING A NATION" AND ANOTHER AREA FOR PAPERSHOW, EXHIBIT, AND THREE SCREEN SLIDE SHOW CONSTITUTE CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL INVESTMENT (OVER \$50,00) WELL AS MANPOWER, INCLUDING TECHNICIAN TO ERECT ON LOCATION. THIS IS BASICALLY A "PRESTIGE" RATHER AN COMMERCIAL PRESENCE.

APPRECIATE YOUR EVALUATION, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW POSSIBILITY THIS EXHIBIT LIKELY BE SENT OTHER POSTS AFTER CLOSE FIKIN.

C. PAO CONLEY IS NEW TO AREA. FORMERLY PAO LISBON. SINCE HE ARRIVED POST FOLLOWING INSPECTION, AGENCY HAS DEFERRED ITEMS IN 1974 INSPECTION REPORT PENDING HIS ASSESSMENT. DUE DATE IS OCTOBER. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASCERTAINING PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT THESE ISSUES. ON-THE-SPOT VIEW OF FACTORS BEHIND INSPECTOR'S SUGGESTION FOR STAFF RE-ORGANIZATION WELL AS POST'S MOVES TO DATE WOULD BE HELPFUL. OTHER MAJOR ISSUE IS BUKAVU READING ROOM, WHICH INSPECTION REPORT SAYS SHOULD BE CLOSED. INSPECTION REPORT, A DAWSON/CONLEY LETTER OF APRIL 29, AND OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE AT POST.

D. UPON ARRIVAL AT POST, PAO STRONGLY RECOMMENDED MOVING TO MORE "SUITABLE" LOCATION. CENTER IS WELL LOCATED AT JUNCTION OF ZAIRIAN CITE AND FORMER EUROPEAN SECTION OF CITY BUT ADMITTEDLY CRAMPED AND NOT VERY ATTRACTIVE. IAA BELIEVES ADVANTAGE PRESENT LOCATION OUTWEIGHS MANY NEGATIVE FACTORS. ALSO DOUBT AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR CHANGE IN NEAR FUTURE. NO OBJECTION POST LOOKING FOR BETTER QUARTERS, GIVEN ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS, BUT WANT AVOID 1) CONTINUED NEGLECT APPEARANCE PRESENT CENTER, WHICH WHOULD BE IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY; AND 2) RELAXATION IN PROGRAMMING IN ANTICIPATION OF MOVE.

LAGOS: PAO JOHN HEDGES ARRIVED POST IN FEBRUARY ON DIRECT TRANSFER FROM BANGKOK. HE RETURNED AGENCY IN MID-MAY FOR WEEK OF VERY USEFUL CONSULTATIONS, DURING WHICH HE MADE EFFECTIVE CASE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 143435

FOR IMPLEMENTING HIS 1976 COUNTRY PROGRAM PROPOSALS. THIS CONSIDERED BY AREA AS AN EXCELLENT BRIEFING DOCUMENT, CRIPS, DIRECT, THOROUGH, AND TO-THE-POINT. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED READING THIS IN CONJUNCTION WITH BRIEFING AS ABOVE.

OTHER ITEMS:

A. PRINCIPAL CONCERN OF POST(WELL AS EMBASSY) AT MOMENT IS GOVERNMENT DEMAND THAT EMBASSY VACATE EMBASSY ANNEX, WHICH ALSO HOUSES USIS CENTER. ALTERNATIVE SITE OFFERED, INSPECTED THIS WEEK BY MISSION, AND CONSIDERED "WORKABLE". HOWEVER, MISSION SEEKS EXTEND FMG IMPOSED DEADLINE FOR VACATING PRESENT PREMISES. UNDER PROPOSED PLAN, PART OF USIS OPERATION WOULD MOVE

TO NEW SITE AND PART TO GROUND-LOOR "PUBLIC AREA" PRESENT CHANCERY.
YOUR EVALUATION THESE ARRANGEMENTS NEEDED.

B. OTHER MAJOR CONCERN IS SKY-ROCKETING REAL ESTATE RENTAL PRICES
LAGOS, SOME OF WHICH LANDLORDS MAY ATTEMPT TO INCREASE DESPITE
EXISTING LEASES. AGENCY RECENTLY AUTHORIZED PAO NEGOTIATE
FOR NEW RESIDENCE, ASSIGNING PRESENT ONE TO DPAO AND
LATTER'S OLD RESIDENCE TO ACAO. CHECK THESE ARRANGEMENTS.

C. PERSONNEL RELATIVELY STABLE AT PRESENT. LATEST ARRIVALS ARE IO
WILLIAM MINEHART AND SECRETARY HELEN FOY. TWO OF THE THREE
BRANCH POSTS WILL UNDERGO CHANGES LATER THIS YEAR. POST HAS REQUESTED
PUBLIC AFFAIRS TRAINEE(JUNIOR OFFICER). REQUEST YOU CONSIDER THIS
VIEW HOUSING SITUATION AND CURRENT INFLATION.

D. THOROUGH BRIEFING FESTAC(THIRD WORLD FESTIVAL OF BLACK AND
AFRICAN ARTS AND CULTURE) DESIRABLE. DESPITE NUMEROUS DIFFI-
CULTIES ON BOTH SIDES ATLANTIC, FESTIVAL SCHEDULED OPEN IN LAGOS IN
NOVEMBER WITH LARGE CONTINGENT AMERICANS (PARTICIPANTS
AND NON-PARTICIPANTS) EXPECTED. ALTHOUGH POST HAS BEEN ADVISED TL
KEEP AT SAFE DISTANCE AS POSSIBLE, THIS BASICALLY NIGERIAN
PROMOTION, IT IS LIKELY US WILL GARNER LARGE SHARE OF BLAME FOR ANY
AND ALL FAILURES. CREDIT ALSO POSSIBLE IN EVENT OF OUTSTANDING
FESTIVAL SUCCESS. BALANCING ACT NECESSARILY DIFFICULT WITH USG
ATTEMPTING TO BE RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT BECOMING DIRECTLY
INVOLVED.

E. POST RECEIVES TOP MARKS FOR INTEGRATING ITS INFORMATION AND
CULTURAL PROGRAMMING, FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH NIGERIAN PRESS,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 143435

AND FOR WILLINGNESS TAKE FRESH LOOK AT POST'S PUBLICATION INTERLINK.
PAO NOW RE-STUDYING DISTRIBUTION LISTS. INVITE YOUR STUDY AND VIEWS
THESE ASPECTS POST OPERATION. ONE BRANCH VISIT DESIRABLE, IF POSSIBLE.

F. ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES FORMED IN LAGOS
RECENTLY. ECOWAS POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT OUR RELATIONS WITH NIGERIA
AND OTHER WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES. NEW ORGANIZATIONS ALSO HAS PUBLIC
AFFAIRS IMPLICATIONS.

G. AMBASSADOR EASUM PRESENTED CREDENTIALS MAY 23, HENCE, VERY NEW
AT POST BUT IS CURRENTLY MAKING ROUNDS AND IS ALREADY ENGAGED IN
MAJOR NEGOTIATIONS, E. G., "A" ABOVE.

ACCRA: PAO ED PANCOAST NEAR END OF TOUR; WILL BE REPLACED BY KEN
BACHE, CURRENTLY PAO YAOUNDE, IN AUGUST. BPAO BILL LAWRENCE LEAVES
IN JULY, BRANCH WILL BE COVERED BY OFFICER ACCRA UNTIL REPLACEMENT
ARRIVES LATE JLY. ACAO ARTHUR SKOP IS MOST RECENT
ADDITON.

OTHER POINTS:

A. PAO HAS BEEN UNDULY BURDENED DURING PAST YEAR WITH NEGOTIATIONS FOR AND SUPERVISION OF REMODELING NEW CENTER. ENTIRE OPERATION HAS BEEN PLAGUED BY DILATORY TACTICS LANDLORD, SLIPSHOD WORK AND DELAYS BY CONTRACTORS, AND INFLATION. ALSO NUMEROUS UNEXPECTED COSTS. REPRESENTATIVE FROM AGENCY RECENTLY VISITED ACCRA AND NEGOTIATED FINAL CONTRACT WELL AS REASONABLE DEADLINES COMPLETION OF CENTER. WHOLE ACTIVITY COMPLICATED BY EXPIRATION OF LEASE PRESENT BUILDING AND DESIRE NEW TENANTS TO MOVE IN ASAP. NOTE PROGRESS AND ASCERTAIN EXTENT TO WHICH NEWEST DEADLINES BEING MET. ALSO PROVIDE PAO MUCH NEEDED AID, COMFORT, AND ENCOURAGEMENT*

B. DESPITE NUMEROUS PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH ABOVE MOVE, POST HAS MAINTAINED HIGH LEVEL PROGRAMMING. ONE OF MOST ACTIVE OPERATIONS IN AREA, AND HAS REMAINED SO THROUGHOUT PAST YEAR. YOU WILL BE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED POST TIES WITH UNIVERSITY AUDIENCES.

C. AMBASSADOR SHIRLEY TEMPLE BLACK HAS HAD MAJOR IMPACT ON POST OPERATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN TERMS RELATIONS WITH PRESS. IO LEFKOWITZ APPEARS TO HAVE BECOME PRESS ATTACHE, WITH RECENTLY ARRIVED AIO BUTLER TAKING UP SLACK IN INFORMATION SECTION. WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 05 STATE 143435

APPRECIATE YOUR ASSESSMENT THIS ARRANGMENT.

D. WOULD BE INTERESTING TO KNOW WHETHER ATTENTION TO AMBASSADOR HAS CHANGED ITS NORMALLY ANTI-US BIAS. USUAL SUBJECTS (CIA, EXPLOITATION, ETC.) HAS BEEN REGULAR FARE DAILY PRESS. POST REPORTING ON RADIO PLACEMENT WEAKER THAN ON PRESS. WOULD YOU ASSESS? WHAT OF GHANAIAN VOICING OF VOA PACKAGE PROGRAMS?

E. BECAUSE OF LIMITED PLACEMENT DAILY PRESS, THE POST RANKS AMANEE, ITS FORTNIGHTLY BULLETIN, HIGH AMONG PRIORITIES. ANY CHANGE HER, ANY RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO QUALITY, EMPHASIS, DISTRIBUTION, ETC?

F. WHAT HAS BEEN IMPACT OF RECENTLY FORMED ASSOCIATION GHANAIAN ALUMNI OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES? IS GROUP VIABLE? INFLUENTIAL? USEFUL IN POST PROGRAMMING?

G. AS IN KINSHASA, THERE IS CONSIDERABLE MISSION CONCERN ABOUT U.S. PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR, FEBRUARY 1976. AMBASSADOR SAW MODEL OF "CENTERPIECE" FOR KINSHASA EXHIBITION DURING HER CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON, MAY SEND REPRESENTATIVE TO KINSHASA FOR CLOSER LOOK. WE ASSUME MISSION WILL RELY UPON COMMERCE, NOT AGENCY, FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT ITS REPRESENTATION.

MONROVIA: PAO TEEPLE ON LEAVE; IO CLATHAN ROSS IN CHARGE
INGERSOLL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE143435
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: USIA/IAA:HGDAWSON JR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 NA
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750213-0005
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197506101/baaaamzw.tel
Line Count: 216
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN USIA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <21 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PINS, US
To: DURBAN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006